

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Lilly Hall, Butler University  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
December 9, 2011

Jon Ford, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Gil Cárdenas, Karen Ellerbrook, Jon Ford, Judy Hess, Pam Hicks, Jeff Kirk, Linda Levell, Jeanne Mirro, Irene Smith-King, Dick Stifel, Trevor Yager

Members absent: Linda Goad, Suzie Rentschler, Kelly Schreckengast, Earl Williams

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, April Blevins, Susan Britsch, Kristina Davis, Laura Frank, Bobbie Garver, Dennis Hardin, Lewis Ricci, Rex Van Zant

Invited guests: Donna Catalano (RAP Consortium), Michael Kos (State Budget Agency); Karen Kovacik (Indiana State Poet Laureate); Susan Zurbuchen (Butler University); former Commissioners Carol Abrams, Jim Bodenmiller, Anita Cast, Willis Clark, India Cruse-Griffin, Joan David, Rita Eykamp, Michael Lee Gradison, Marianita Hicks Porterfield, Peter Jacobi, Robert McCarty, Alane Meis, Jack Schriber, Charles Simons, Ann Stack, Charles Webb

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** IAC Commission Chair Jon Ford convened the meeting at 1:50 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Ford welcomed the former IAC Commissioners in attendance.

2. **Consent Agenda.** IAC Commissioner Pam Hicks moved to adopt the consent agenda, consisting of today's meeting agenda and the minutes from the September 16, 2011 meeting of the full Commission. IAC Commissioner Judy Hess seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Chair's Report.**

A. Mr. Ford presented a handout (attached) showing current vacancies on the Commission. The Governor's office has offered assurance that all vacancies will be filled before the current administration leaves office.

B. Mr. Ford then opened a brief discussion of the standing committee schedule (attached). He reminded the Commission that Indiana's Open Meeting Law precludes formal actions when there is lack of quorum for a committee meeting, and that the committee schedule for FY 2012 has been set up to address action items only twice each year for each committee; the other two meetings for each committee are scheduled as teleconferences. However, achieving a quorum has still been difficult on the dates when it has been needed. Some Commissioners spoke of the difficulty of traveling from the most distant areas of the state, especially when committee meetings

are scheduled before late morning. Mr. Ford suggested that committee meetings could be scheduled for late morning and early afternoon to accommodate travel. A revised schedule will be drafted.

C. Mr. Ford reported that IAC staff have submitted a survey to the House Select Committee on Government Reduction, and that, as a result, the Governor's office has suggested that the IAC's Cultural Trust Administrative Board become a standing committee under the Arts Commission, rather than an independent board as it exists now. IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci has tentatively agreed to the idea, so long as the funds in the Cultural Trust are not subjected to scrutiny for possible budgetary actions by the State. Further discussions will include Doug Huntsinger of the Governor's office, Mr. Ricci, and Mr. Ford.

D. IAC Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook reported on the Foundation and Business Roundtable #2 which was held last October 18; the meeting was hosted by Karen and Niel Ellerbrook. Two mutual priorities came to the forefront, arts advocacy and capacity building. Ms. Ellerbrook and Mr. Ricci are in the process of scheduling further individual meetings with grant officers who participated in the Roundtable. Mr. Ricci reported that IAC has submitted a letter of intent to apply for a national ArtPlace grant, which is being funded by private foundations. The purpose of the grant will be to establish Indiana Artisan marketplaces in each of the designated Cultural Districts.

E. IAC Commissioner Jeanne Mirro invited everyone to attend the first-ever Commissioner Emeritus Gathering, which will be held immediately after this meeting has concluded. She thanked former Commissioners Ann Stack and Anita Cast who helped in the planning for the Gathering.

F. Mr. Ford presented a handout (attached) showing the 2012 Arts in Education grant recommendations, which have been approved by the Program Evaluation Committee and the Executive Committee. Ms. Hicks moved to approve the grant recommendations as presented. IAC Commissioner Dick Stifel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Mr. Ford presented a handout (attached) showing the proposed changes to the geographic make-up of the Regional Arts Partner system. The primary change involves eliminating the former Region 11 (Jasper area) and assigning those counties to other Regions; another change will move Adams County from Region 5 to Region 3. IAC Commissioner Trevor Yager moved to approve the changes as presented. Ms. Hess seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report.**

A. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing the IAC budget for FY 2012, current through December 2, 2011.

B. Mr. Ricci reviewed the recent Regional Arts Partner retreat which was held on October 27 - 28 at the Monon Cultural Center in Carmel. He reported that the retreat was very positive, with three priorities coming from the Partners: 1) re-evaluate the allocation formula; 2) better 2-way communication; 3) mentoring for new Partners. Mr. Ricci said that a committee of Commissioners, staff, and Partners will begin reviewing the allocation formula for the first time in several years. IAC Commissioner Trevor Yager mentioned that one of his goals for the Partnership is to achieve more

consistency in grant panel scores state-wide. Notes taken at the October meetings are attached.

C. Mr. Ricci reported on the October 28 “Think Tank” hosted by IAC at the Monon Cultural Center in Carmel. It was attended by over 70 persons representing current and possible project partners from around the state. Notes from the sessions are attached.

D. Mr. Ricci reported on the Ball State Building Better Communities Colloquium which was held by IAC and Ball State University on October 17 – 18 at the Monon Cultural Center in Carmel. One of the purposes of the colloquium was to spark interest in the IAC’s Cultural Districts program, and to encourage communities to develop plans for joining the program. A list of attendees is attached. Registration for the colloquium filled quickly and there remained a waiting list for attendance. As a result, a second colloquium is being considered. IAC will use some of its technical service funds to provide consultancies by Ball State faculty for those attending communities which have requested more input. Mr. Ricci thanked IAC staff members Kristina Davis and Laura Frank for their work on the colloquium.

E. Mr. Ricci introduced the recently-appointed Indiana State Poet Laureate Karen Kovacik, who favored the Commission with a reading of one of her recent poems about Indianapolis.

## **5. Committee Reports.**

A. Program Evaluation Committee. Committee chair Mr. Yager presented the PEC report (attached). He asked IAC staff member Susan Britsch to comment about discussions that are under way in review of the IAC’s Arts in Education Grants and possible changes to the program to broaden its appeal and impact. Also under discussion by the PEC is a review of the criteria to become an official Cultural District. The PEC is also working on advising statewide arts service organizations to improve their grant application scores and thus the amount of state support they can receive.

B. Advocacy & Awareness Committee. Committee chair Pam Hicks reported that plans are being finalized for the 2011 Governor’s Arts Awards to be held on the campus of Indiana University South Bend on April 26, 2012. She encouraged everyone to plan to attend. She then asked Mr. Ford to report on his recent meetings with declared candidates for the 2012 gubernatorial election. The committee report is attached.

C. Cultural Trust Administrative Board. Committee chair Judy Hess presented the committee report (attached). The CTAB voted to approve the withdrawal of \$37,500.00 in January 2012 to fund the IAC’s Arts in Education Grants. She also presented a copy (attached) of the CTAB report to the General Assembly.

D. Committee on the Future. Committee chair Jeff Kirk presented the minutes from the latest meeting of the COF (attached). He reported on new requirements for statistical tracking that have been imposed by the National Endowment for the Arts. He presented a handout (attached) showing a matrix of topics that can be employed to

track the new IAC strategic plan. He would like for an individual Commissioner to volunteer to be the lead Commissioner for each of the 9 topics. Mr. Stifel expressed the importance of “owning” the strategic plan. Ms. Mirro suggested bringing at least one item from the strategic plan to each quarterly business meeting for discussion.

**6. Regional Arts Partners Update.** Donna Catalano, president of the RAP consortium, announced that Arts Day at the Statehouse will be January 23, 2012, with a training session beginning at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Ford encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Catalano also iterated the RAP desire to be included in any discussions of changes in the RAP allocation plan.

**7. Old Business.** Mr. Kirk emphasized the importance of including social gatherings in conjunction with quarterly business meetings, including a sampling of the local arts scene wherever IAC meets.

**8. New Business.** Mr. Stifel reported that IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci has been elected to the board of directors of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), and offered congratulations. Mr. Ricci also reported that former IAC Commissioner Sandra Clark from Bloomington has been elected to the board of directors of Arts Midwest.

**9. Closing Comments.** Mr. Ford thanked everyone for their participation, and stresses the importance of attendance whenever possible.

**10. Adjourn.** Ms. Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.